



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN CONSPIRACY INVOLVING 'DATE RAPE DRUG'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a third co-defendant pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a GHB conspiracy. The guilty plea, Graves said, is part of the nationwide Operation Webslinger investigation that targeted the illegal Internet trafficking of date rape drugs.

Andrew M. Schulze, 29, of Concordia, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Schulze** admitted that he conspired to import gamma butyrolactone (GBL) from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada, with the intent to manufacture gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), between Jan. 1, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2002.

Schulze is the final co-defendant to plead guilty in this case. Two others also have pleaded guilty.

On March 23, 2005, **Travis J. Swingle**, 34, of Kansas City, also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import gamma butyrolactone (GBL) from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada, with the intent to manufacture gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), between Jan. 1, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2002.

On March 2, 2005, **Paul L. Schleicher**, 31, of Harrisonville, Mo., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture GHB between June 1, 2001, and Sept. 18, 2002.

Under federal law, Graves explained, the co-defendants may be subject to a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was

investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow